

## **Minutes – Joint Meeting**

### **Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID November 13, 2008**

---

Attendance: HBID Committee Members Present: John Tronson, Chairperson, Thaddeus Smith, Dan Chismire, Nathan Korman. Not Present: Jeff Hanlon. SVBID Committee Members Present: Richard Falzone. Not Present: Darcy Judd, Chairperson; Brent Gaulke, Fred Rosenthal. Liaisons: Captain Beatrice Girmala, Senior Lead Officers Danny Pesquiera, John Washington; Officer Irv Isabella; Steve Seyler, , Andrews International; Larry Webster, LA City Attorney's Office; Guests: Joseph D'Amore, Carol Massie, property owners; Lucy Gregorian. Staff: Kerry Morrison, Hollywood Property Owners Alliance.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Tronson at 10:15 A.M.

II. Public Comment: None.

III. Approval of Joint Security Committee Meeting Minutes: Due to a lack of quorum from the Sunset and Vine Security Committee the minutes were tabled until the Committee's December Meeting.

#### **IV. Reports**

A. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler distributed and summarized his monthly report for Oct 6, 2008 through November 9. He highlighted community meetings attended, on behalf of the BIDs, key arrests during this period, and outreach to homeless individuals.

B. Report from LAPD: Captain Bea Girmala emphasized the productive partnership with BID security and reported that BID security has been welcomed to LAPD crime control meetings in order to share information. In particular, there has been a significant drop in Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicles along Selma, owing to the BID's patrols along Selma. Girmala also reported that the Department has made some overtime budget available to Hollywood Division, and, as a result, she is able to deploy a weekend late night car in the Hollywood Box area, through the end of the year. She also reported that she's been working with the City Attorney's office on a potential solution to address the problems with illegal vending and unregulated street characters and will present more at a later date.

C. Report from City Attorney/Neighborhood Prosecutor: Larry Webster reported that activity at the Hollywood courthouse has been exceedingly busy with back-to-back trials. When asked about the likelihood that the Hollywood courthouse would be in jeopardy, with the recent round of budget cuts, Webster said everything is facing uncertainty. However, he did reference an article written by the new assistant presiding judge of the LA Superior Court system who talked about the importance of community

based courts and decried the loss of the lock-up at the Hollywood courthouse.

## V. Old Business

A. Video Surveillance Cameras. Morrison reported that Joe Mariani has made great progress in ironing out the logistics associated with installing a camera at the SE corner of Sunset and Cahuenga. Morrison thanked Capt. Girmala for writing a letter to DOT supporting the use of their ATSAC pole to mount the camera. It is hoped that this can occur in early December. With respect to a second location for a camera, Morrison reported that the intersection of Gower and Selma continues to surface as a good spot for a camera whose cost would be shared by both BIDs. The logistics of this installation would be a bit more complicated, as there are no appropriate buildings to house a repeater, and Metro Video has recommended use of a hard wired DSL line (more costly on an ongoing basis) to carry the signal. Morrison also encouraged LAPD to identify any other sites that might be appropriate for a camera in the new year.

B. Other issues: Morrison informed the committee that the new owner of the McDonald's at Hollywood and Highland is Carol Massie, who also owns the McDonald's on Vine in the Sunset BID. Ms. Massie is working hard to "harden the target" to help decrease the attractiveness of the store to loitering and other problems. She has also hired armed security on weekends, and is changing the front design. She is also looking into removing the pay phone out front and requesting the shifting of the bus stop farther east on the block because of the criminal behavior that occurs in front of her store by some posing as if they are waiting for a bus. Representatives from Hollywood and Highland said they would provide video tape showing the loitering that occurs and Captain Girmala said she would support the bus stop moving east of the front door of McDonald's.

## VI. New Business

A. Nathan Korman suggested that in the future, the BID may want to provide a seminar for property owner about how to handle issues in the event of an earthquake (e.g., property owners may need to know how to turn off the gas in their buildings.)

B. Halloween: Captain Girmala reported on Halloween. She indicated that there were approximately 300 officers deployed that evening. At about 10:00, the crowd started to increase, partially due to the fact that crowds were being turned away from West Hollywood due to an over capacity crowd for their Halloween celebration. Because of the density of the crowd, and in order to protect life and property, LAPD command staff elected to close down the Boulevard to vehicular and foot traffic shortly after 11 p.m. It was agreed that next year, steps could be taken to prepare for Halloween to avoid such influxes of people, including working in advance with LA County Sheriff and CHP relative to traffic coming into Hollywood off the 101 freeway.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.